

Stewardship of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands

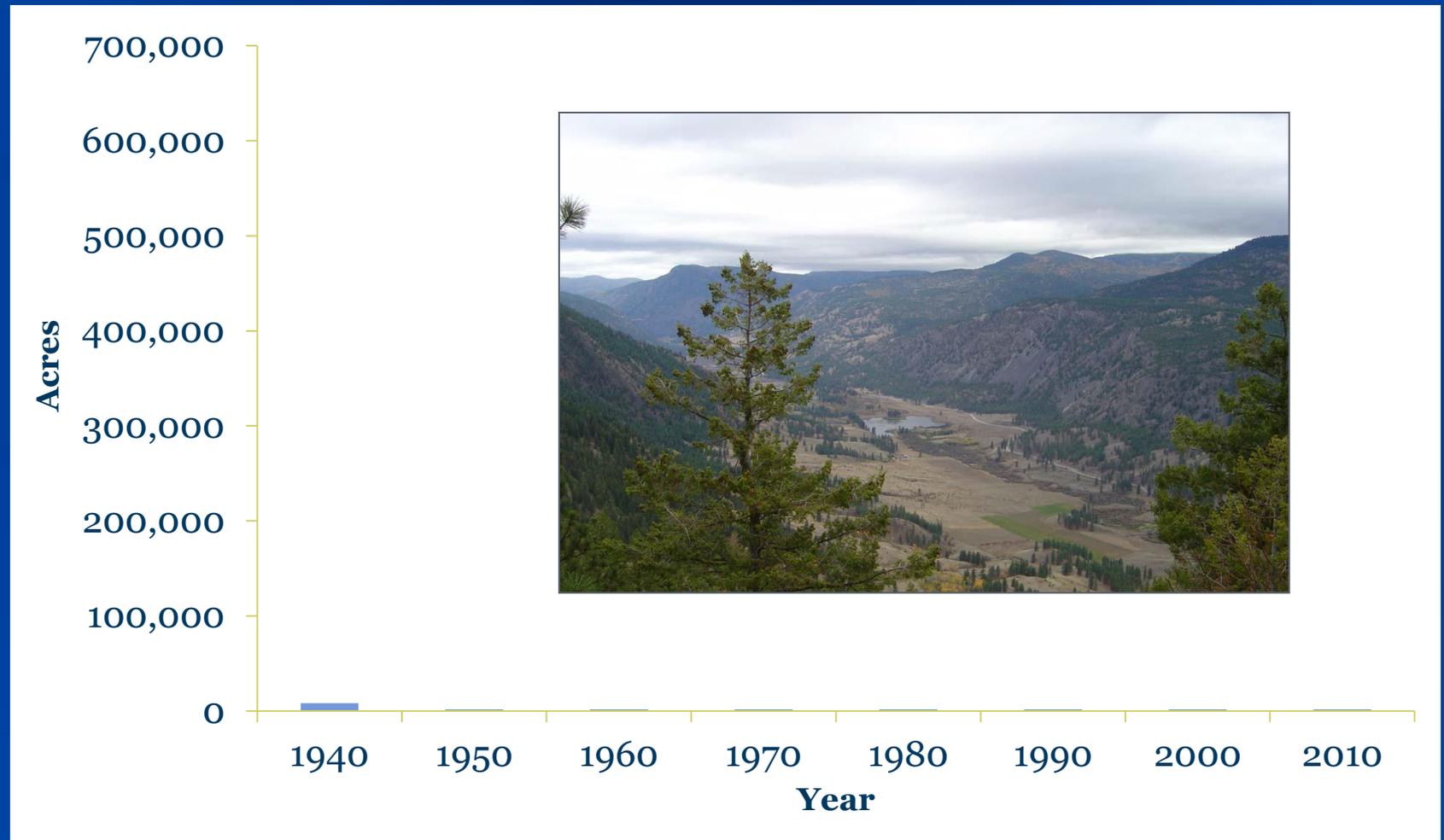
Status of Operation and Maintenance Funding

June 01, 2012
Fish and Wildlife Commission



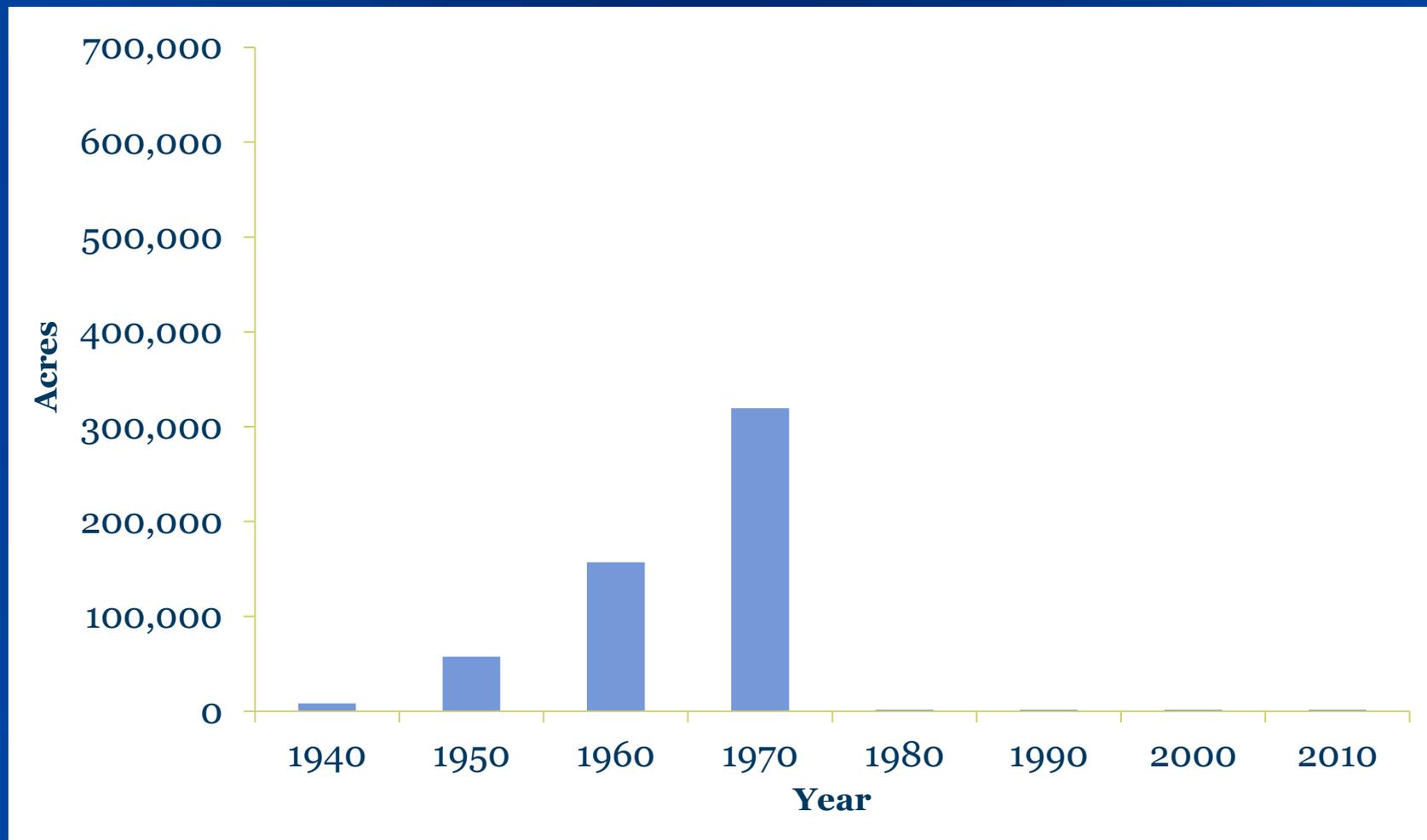
Acquisition History

- 1933: Department of Game established
- 1939: First Acquisition - 80 acres of Mule Deer Winter Range – Sinlahekin



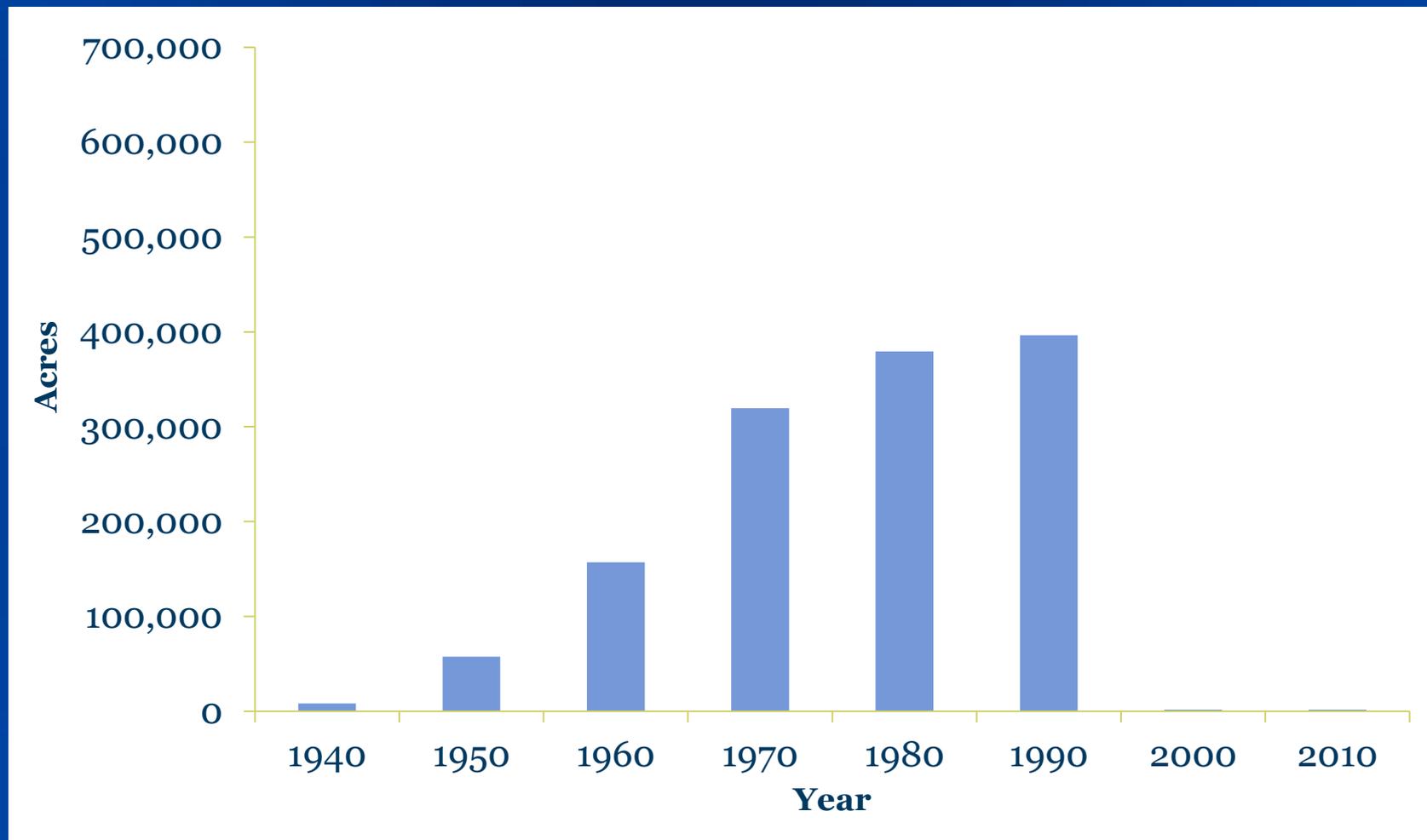
Acquisition History

- 1940 to 1970: WDFW ownership grows to ~340,000 acres
- Federal Funding: Pittman Robertson (PR), Dingell Johnson (DJ), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)



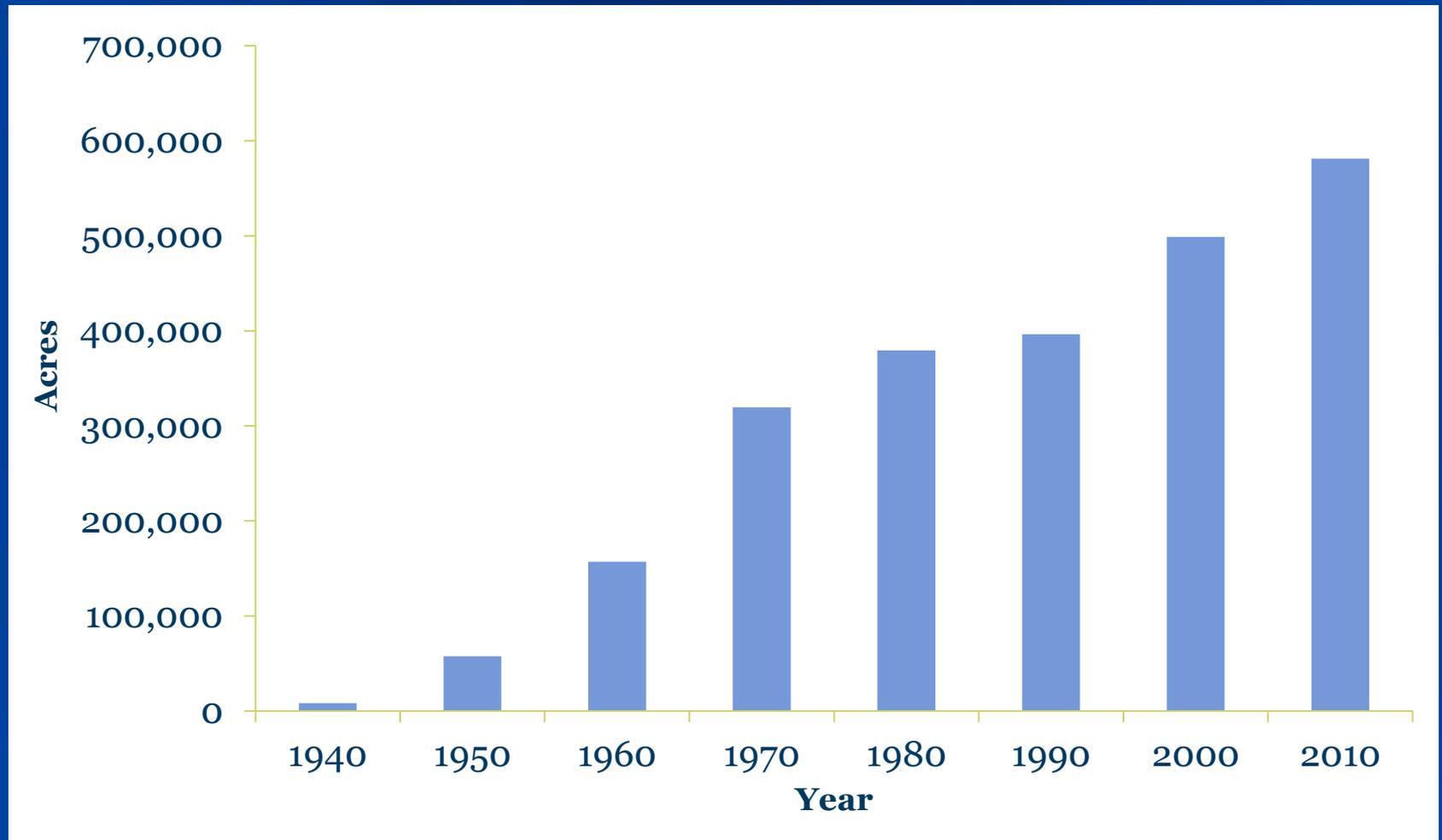
Acquisition History

- 1970-1990: Smaller number of acres and acquisitions
- Mitigation Funding: Public Utilities Districts (PUD's), Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

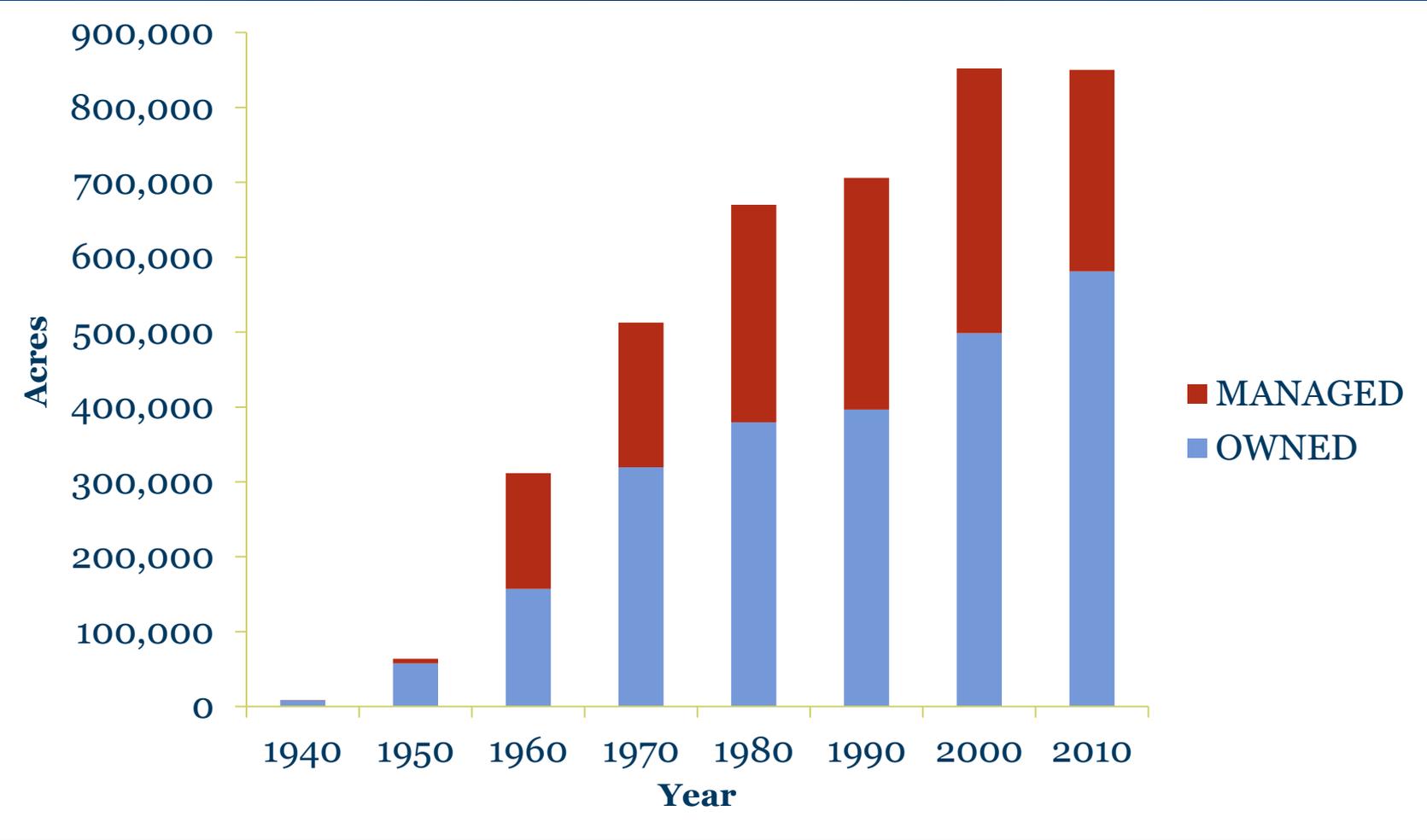


Acquisition History

- 1990 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program established
- Ability to leverage federal Endangered Species Act acquisition funding (“Sec 6”)

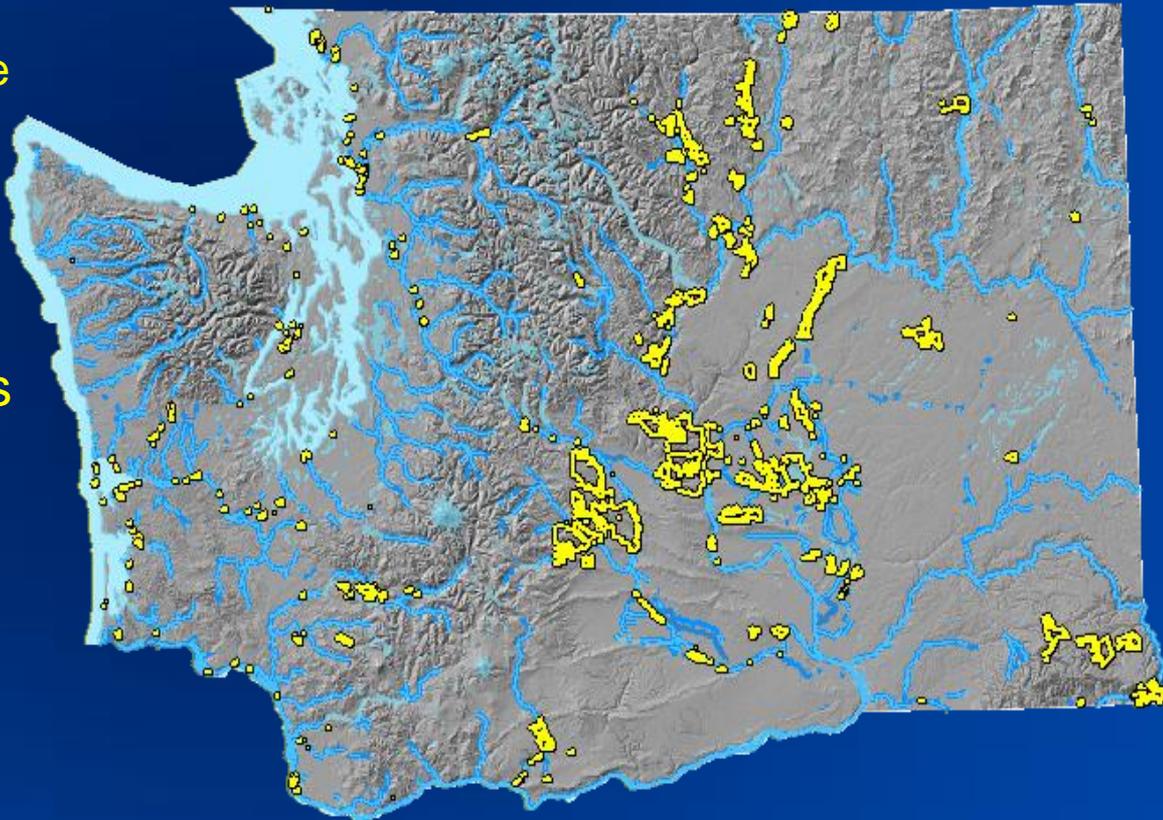


Owned and Managed Acres



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands Portfolio

- **Wildlife Areas**
 - ~900,000 acres (2% of the State)
 - 32 Wildlife Areas
 - Open 365 days/ year
 - Four million visitors/ year
- **Boat launch/Water Access Site**
 - 700+ sites
- **Private Lands Contracts**
 - ~1,000,000 acres
 - Landowner Incentive Programs
 - Farm Bill



Why do we buy land?

- *To protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats*
- *To provide sustainable and wildlife-related recreational opportunities*

WDFW Conservation Tools

Return on the Investment

Mandates Achieved

Conservation Certainty

Preserve,
Conserve,
Enhance

Wildlife
Related
Recreation/
Commercial



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•Regulatory

- Hydraulic Project Approvals (HPA)
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

X

X



•Species Augmentation

- Hatchery
- Reintroduction
- Release (fish, pheasants, turkeys)

X

X

X



•Land Use Planning Assistance

- Critical Area Ordinance development (GMA)
- Voluntary Stewardship Program (Ruckelshaus)
- Priority Habitats and Species Databases
- Conservation Opportunity Framework

X

X

X

X

X



•Private Lands Partnerships

- Land Owner Incentive Programs
- Coordinated Resource Management Plans

X

X

X

X



•Real Property Management and Transactions

- Fee Title Acquisition
- Conservation Easements

X

X

X

X



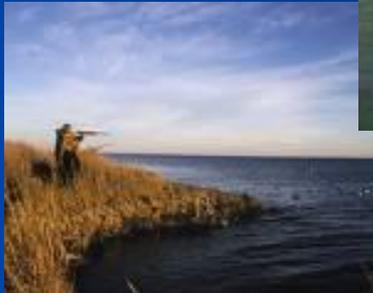
Acquisition Steps

Scoping
and Need

Evaluation and
Prioritization

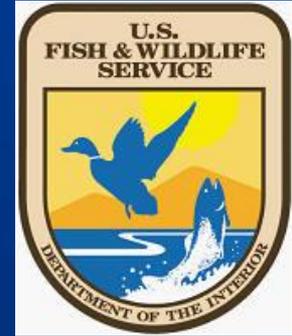
Acquisition
Implementation

Integrating
Ownership



Acquisition Steps

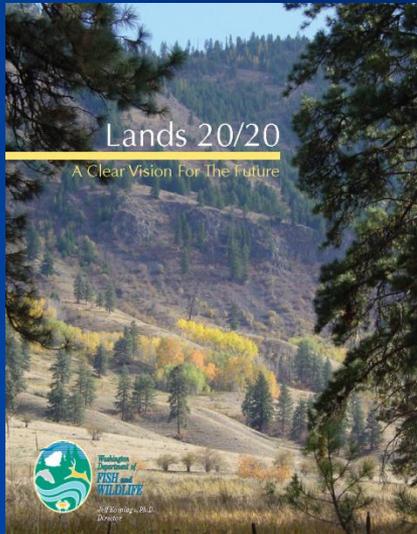
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Major Acquisition Funding Sources

- Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
 - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)



- USFWS
 - Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund “Section 6”
 - National Coastal Wetland Conservation Act
 - North American Wetland Conservation Act



Conservation Partners

Trust for Public Lands
Local Land Trusts
Conservation Northwest
The Nature Conservancy
Mule Deer Foundation
Doris Duke Foundation
Rock Mountain Elk Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
The Wilderness Society
Forterra



Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) 1990 - RCW 79A.15.005

- Legislative finding:

It is therefore the policy of the state to acquire as soon as possible the most significant lands for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses, and to develop existing public recreational land and facilities to meet the needs of present and future generations.

WWRP

WDFW Award History

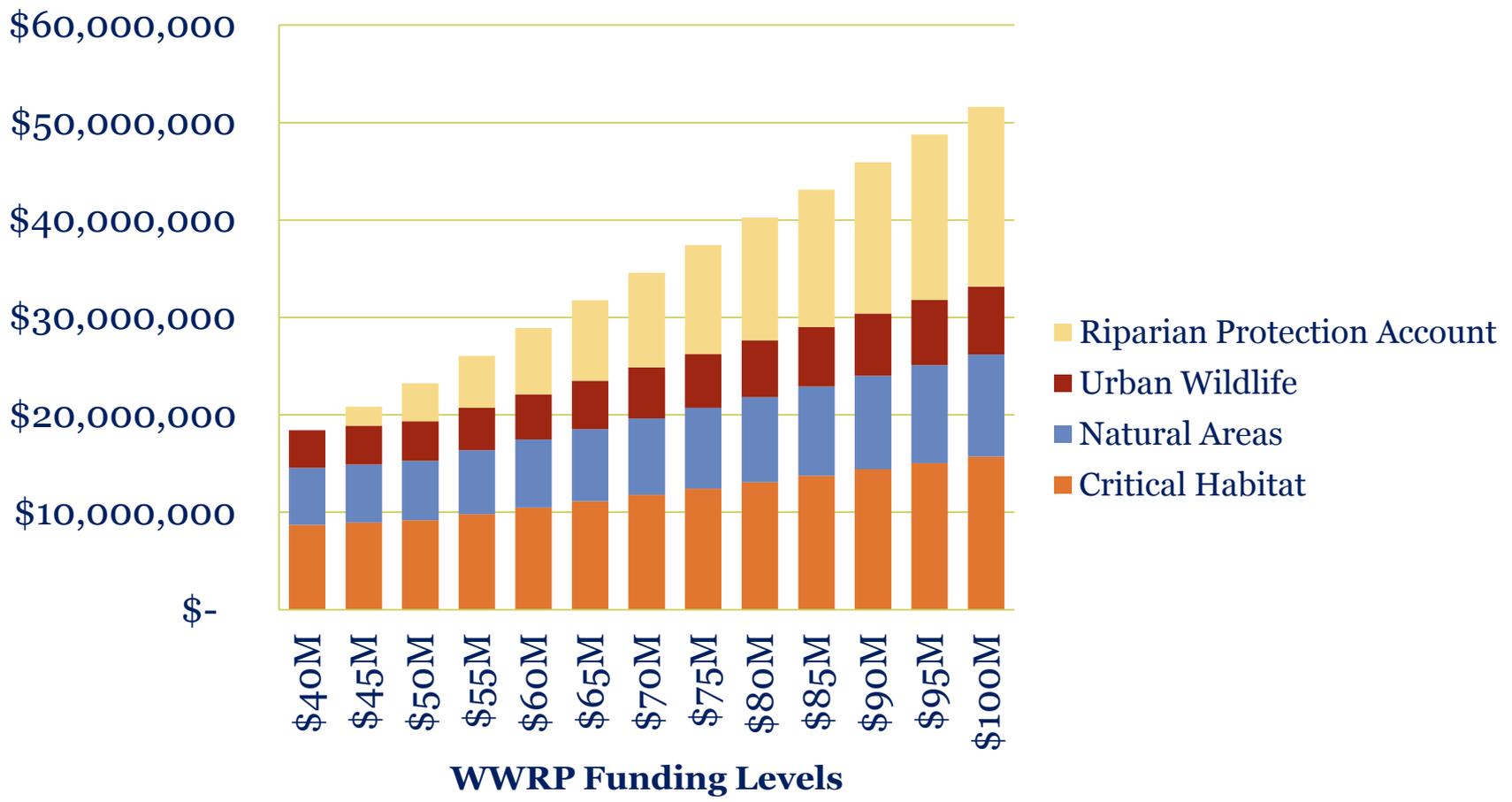
WWRP Category	Projects Funded	Award
Critical Habitat	82	\$ 125,048,768
Natural Areas	2	\$ 925,055
Riparian	6	\$ 7,980,542
Trails	2	\$ 742,251
Urban Wildlife	11	\$ 9,668,069
Water Access	9	\$ 3,053,966
State Lands Development	9	\$ 2,207,715
State Lands Restoration	18	\$ 4,336,135
Total	139	\$ 181,053,975

WWRP

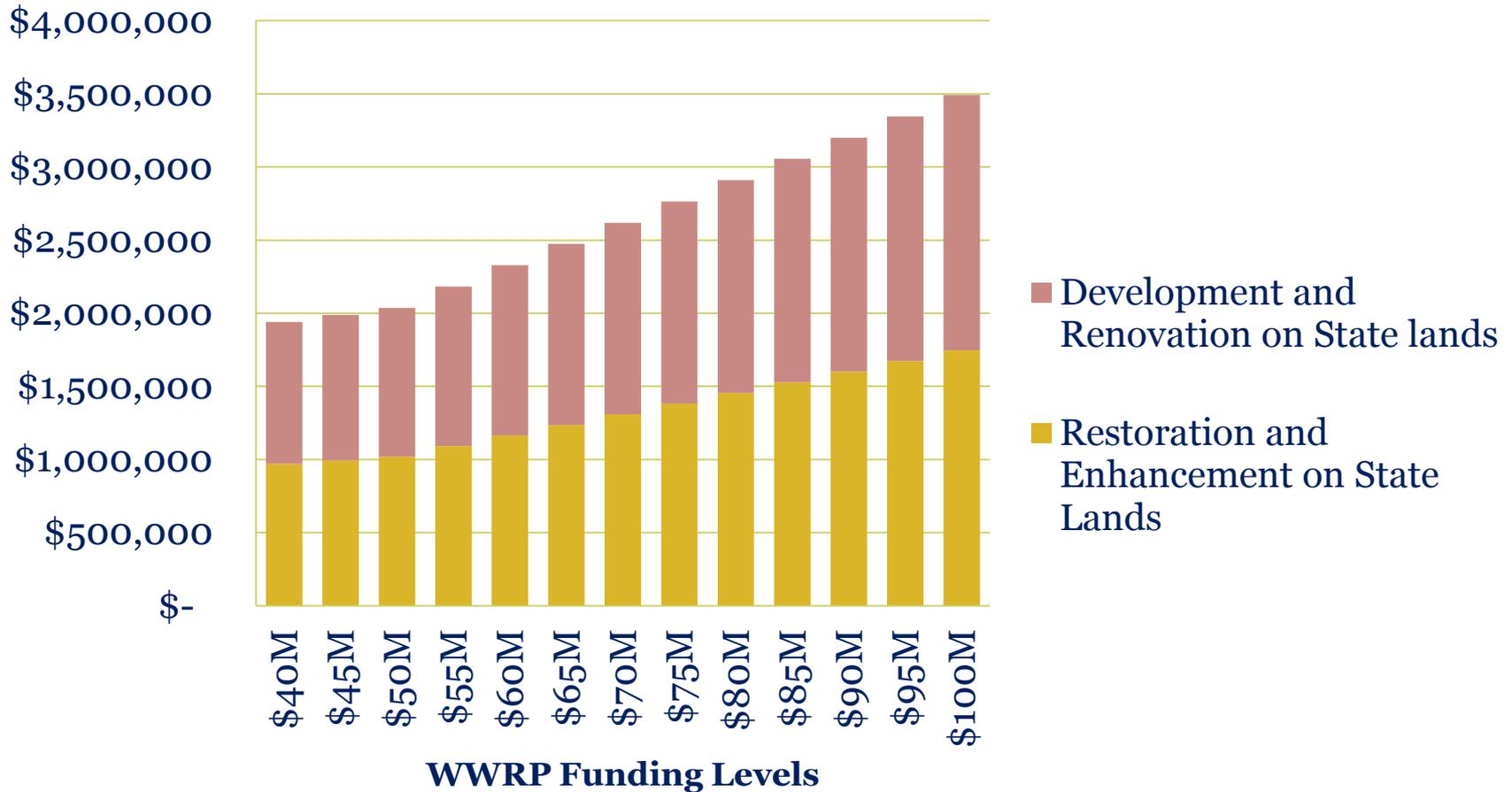
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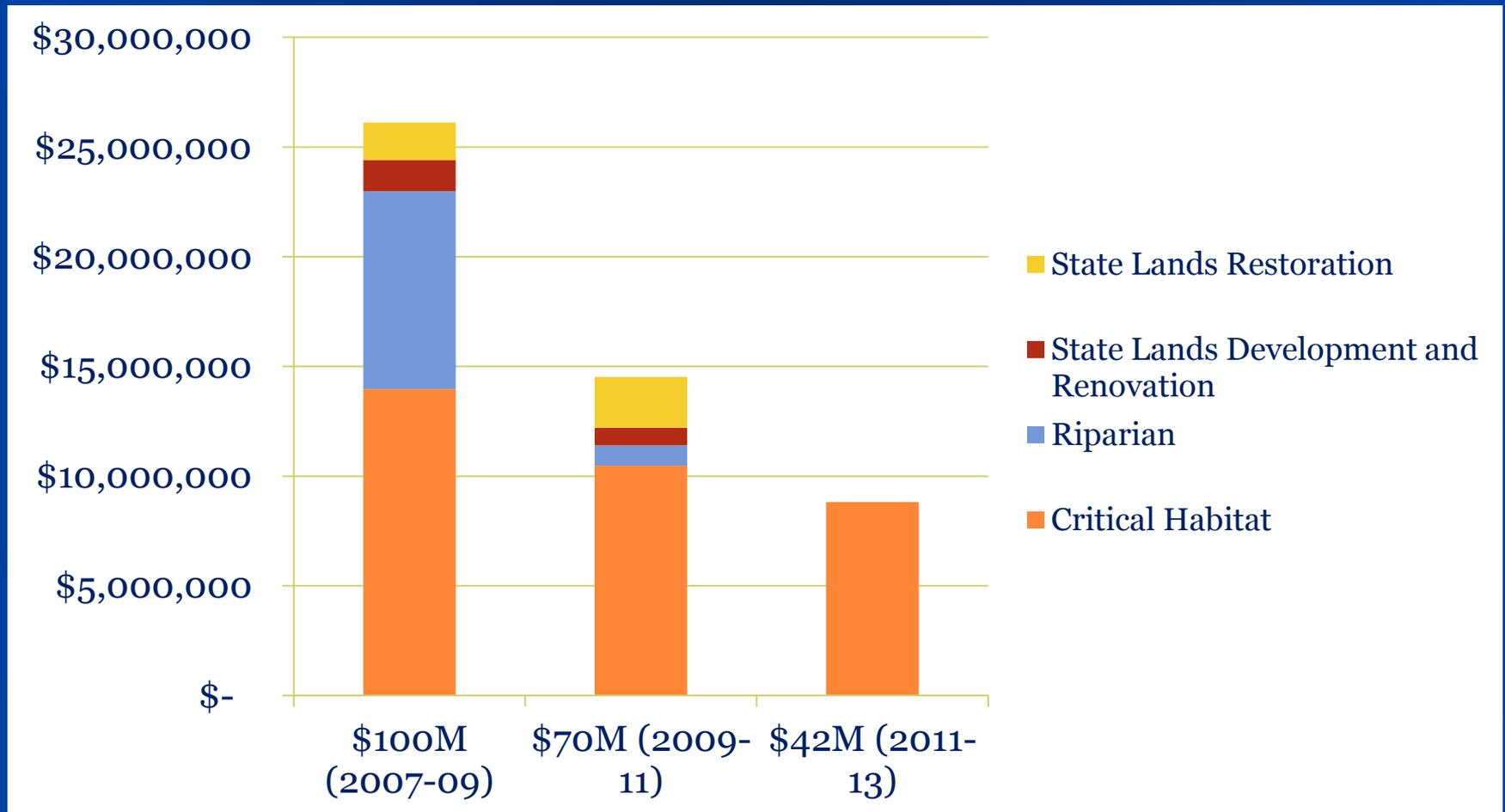
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Acquisition Categories



Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program State Land Stewardship Categories



Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program WDFW Awards 2007-2013

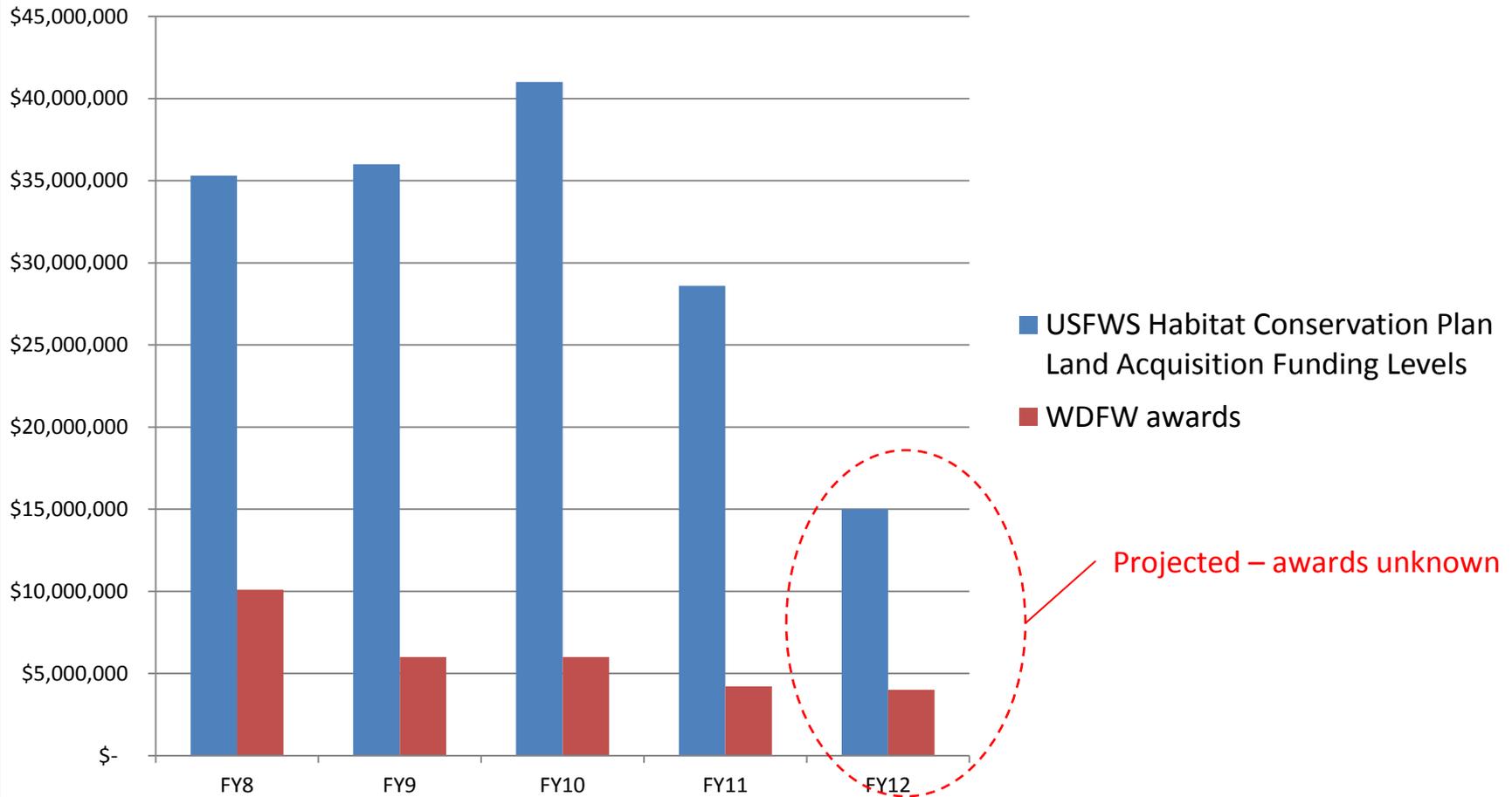


WWRP Funding Facts

- Acquisition Funding
 - Fee Title
 - Conservation Easements
 - Startup Costs (up to 3 yrs)
 - E.g., Fencing, signage, building removal, water right research, GIS mapping, weed control

Funding Sources

USFWS - Section 6



Ownership Facts

Purchase Price

- State Requirement
 - Inform seller in writing of fair market value
 - WDFW practice - third party appraisal
 - Offer – fair market value
- Appraisal
 - Conducted by a certified general appraiser
 - Standards established by funding source
 - Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition
 - Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice
 - Internal Chief Appraiser Review
 - External Funder Review (Federal)



Ownership Facts

Payment-in-lieu-of-tax (PILT)

- PILT was established under state law (RCW 77.12.203). Counties:
 - Election to receive PILT payments, or
 - Portion of game-violation fines and forfeitures collected within the county
 - 100 contiguous acres (not on buildings, hatcheries, etc.)
- Counties collecting PILT have a choice of three rates. Counties may elect a PILT amount equal to:
 - open-space classification, or
 - 70 cents per acre, or
 - amount paid on the parcel in 1984

Ownership Facts

PILT and County Assessments

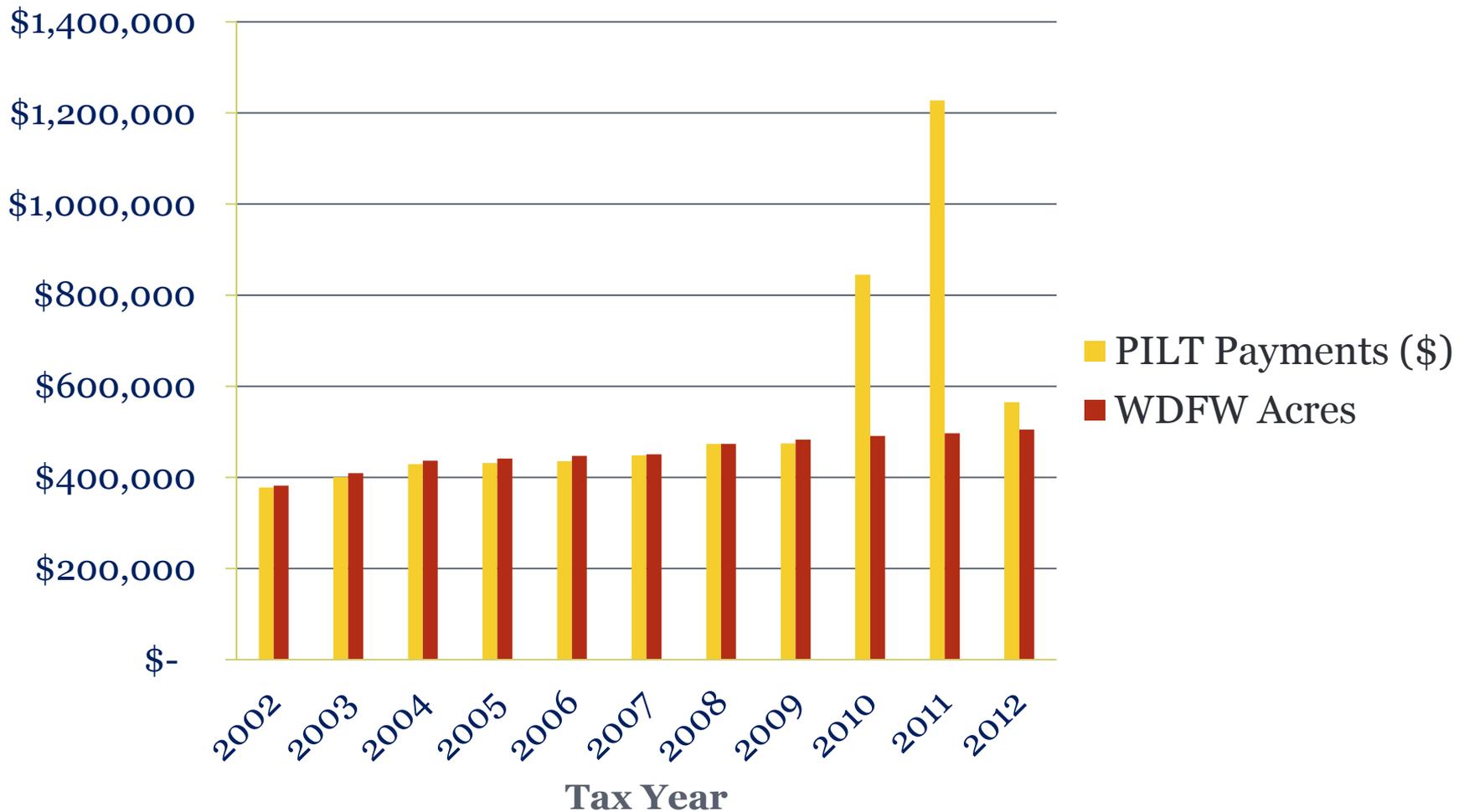
- County Assessments: required
 - E.g., weed boards, irrigation districts, dike districts, fire protection, storm water management, lake management districts, conservation districts
- In April 2012 – WDFW paid:

*****PILT ~\$565K to 14 counties**

*****Assessments ~\$350K to 28 counties**

Ownership Facts

Ten-year PILT payment history



Ownership Facts

Contribution to Economy

- WDFW lands – integral to the economy
- Spending by anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers = \$4.5 billion/yr
- License Sales
 - 600+ dealer
 - \$45M+ revenue for WDFW
 - 1.4 Million in-store visits
 - Per visit - \$25-\$50 on additional retail items
 - Dealer livelihood
 - B&O tax – general fund



Ownership Facts

Conservation Easements

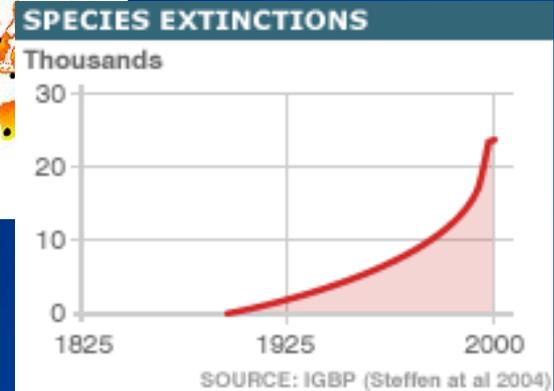
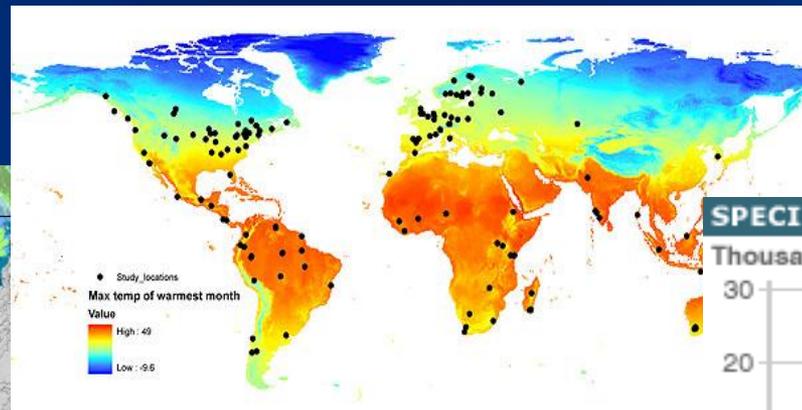
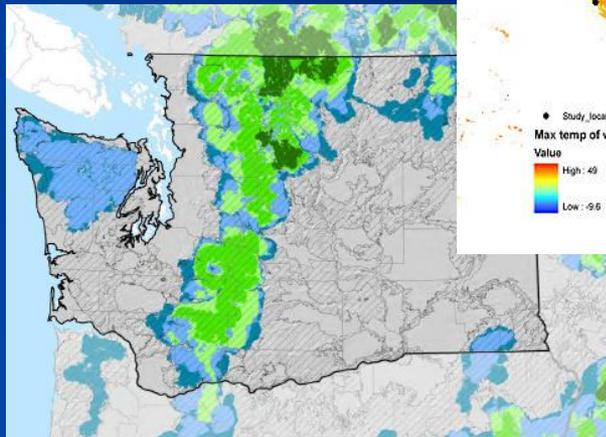
- 47 Conservation Easements
- 16,248 acres
- Seller's Choice
- Benefits:
 - Local values - keep working lands working
 - Reduce cost of habitat protection and land management.



Ownership Facts

How Much is Enough?

- Biological/ Ecological
 - Species Specific – Recovery and Game Management Needs
 - Landscape Specific - Climate Change Focus: buffer and connect existing protected lands



Ownership Facts

How Much is Enough?

- Compatible Recreation Needs
 - Habitat for hunted and fished species
 - Places for people to hunt and fish
 - Places for people to view and enjoy wildlife

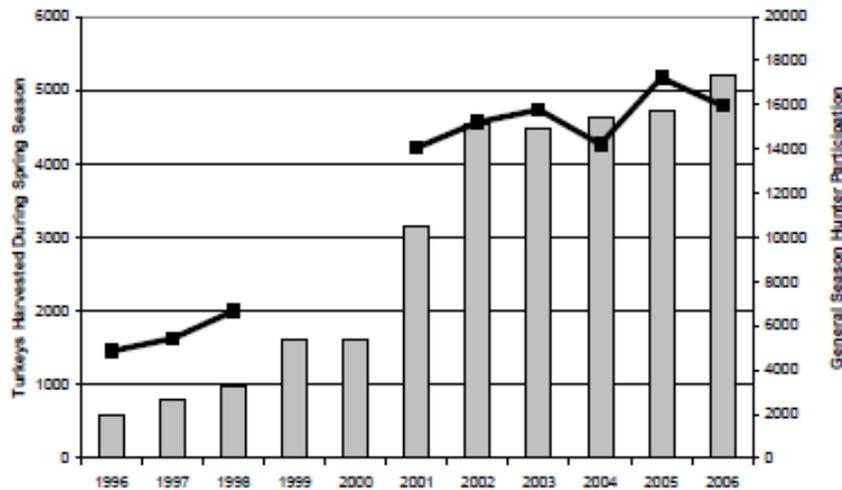


Figure 1: Spring season turkey harvest and general season hunter participation from 1996 to 2006. (Note: Hunter participation was not collected in 1999 and 2000.)



Ownership Facts

How Much is Enough?

- Societal – open space needs and values
 - Supply/Demand and Scarcity
 - WWRP - RCW 79A.15
 - Acquisition of lands for wildlife and recreation purposes
 - Open space RCW 84.34.010
 - To assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources

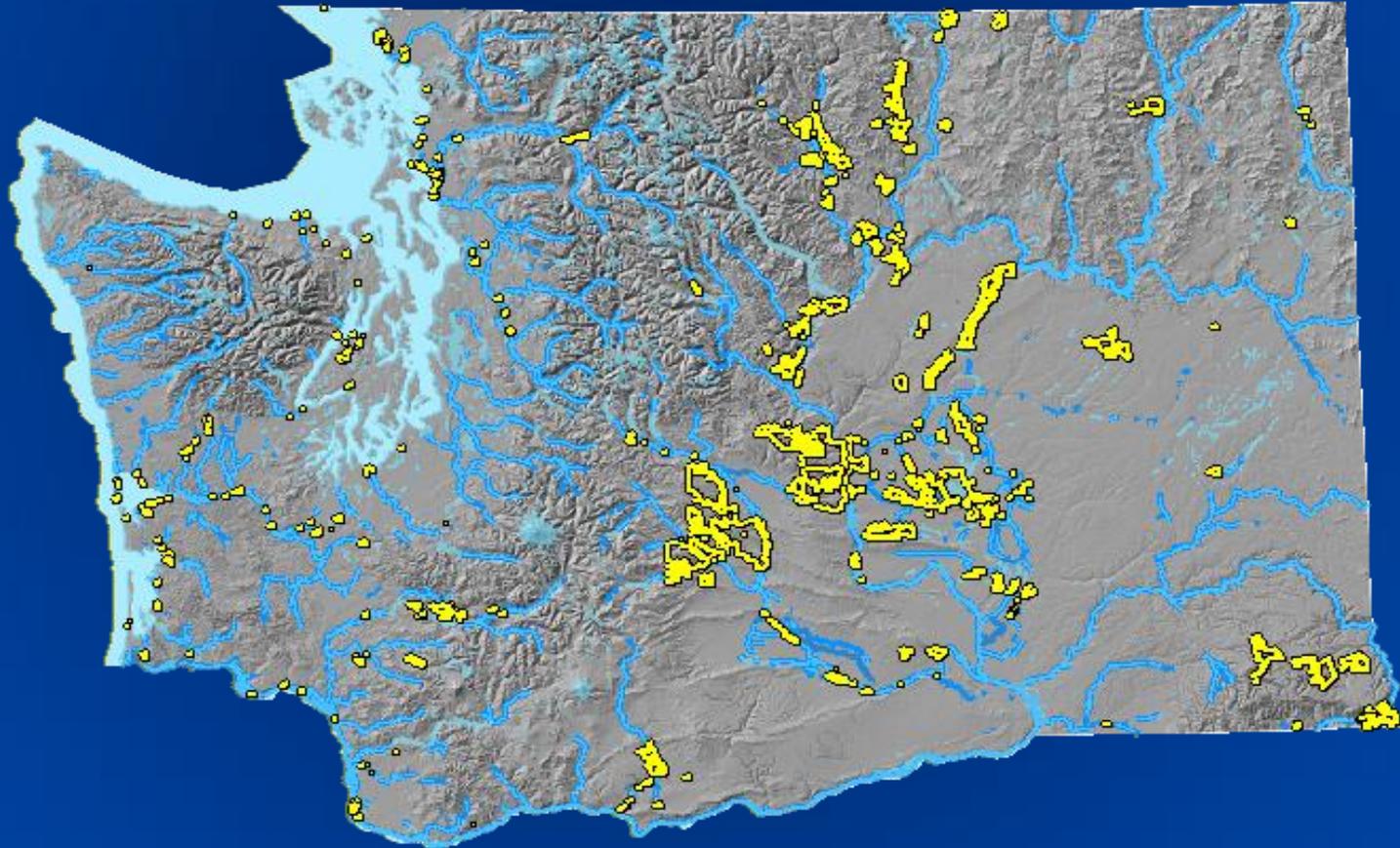
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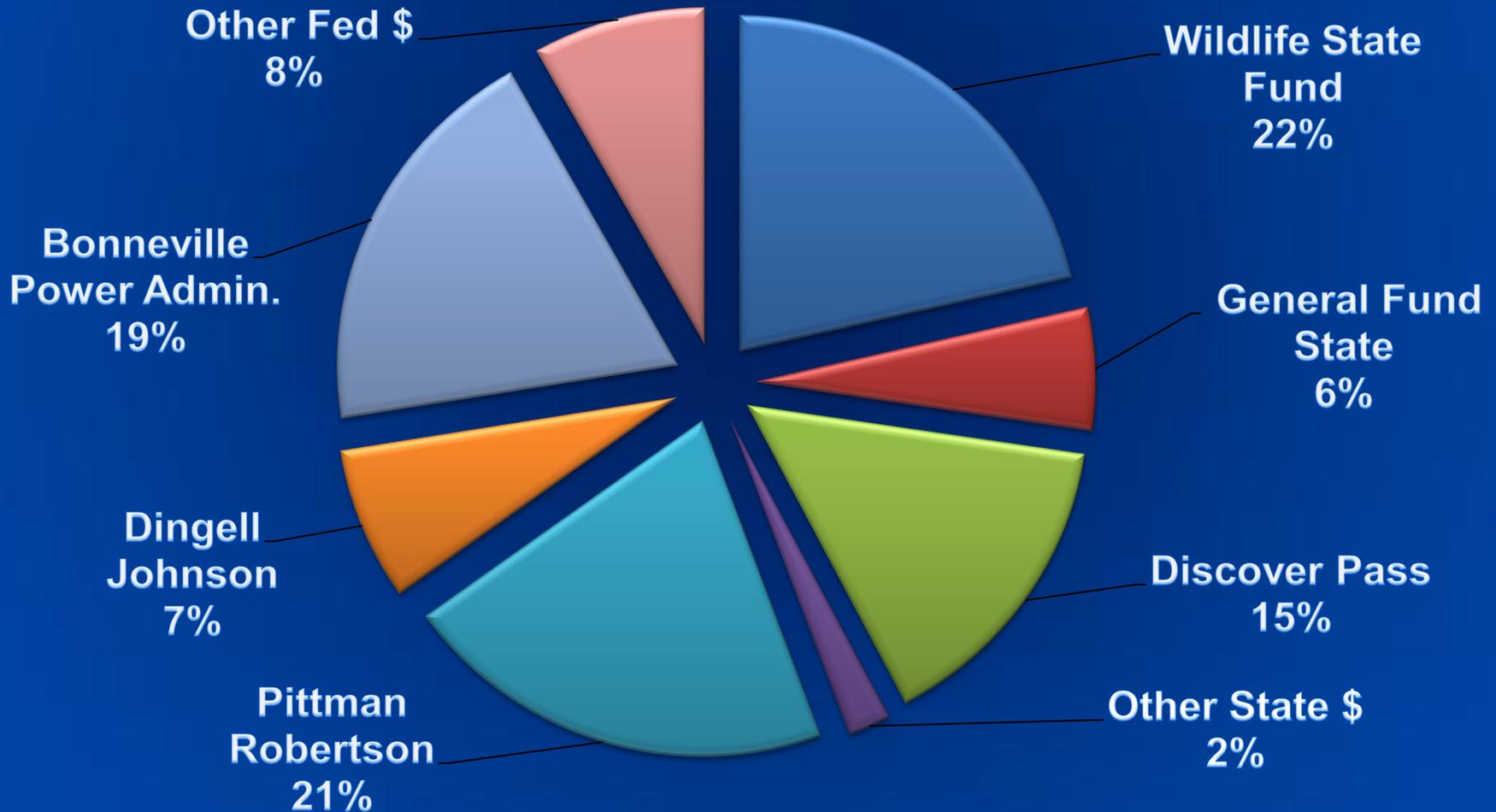
- When the human population stops growing and needing places to hunt, fish and view wildlife, AND
- When diverse populations of fish and wildlife species are secure.....

Then we have enough.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Operation and Maintenance



Lands Division Operating Budget ~ \$24 Million (biennial)



Wildlife Area and Access Site

Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Funding

- Base funding
- Working Lands Partnerships
- Grants/ Partnership
- Habitat/ Species Focused Projects
- Capital Projects
- Other revenue

*Not included here and also is considered O&M– Law Enforcement, Outreach/ Education, Real Property Management, Volunteers

Base funding

WLS, Discover Pass, PR, DJ

- Staff –
 - 69 regional permanent WLA staff
 - 60+ temp
- O& M activities
 - Rangeland Habitat Monitoring, Wildlife Water Site/ Structure, Wildlife Feeding, Camp sites/grounds, Signs, Facilities, Equipment Maintenance , CAG and planning, Landowner support (contracts), Fences, Roads and Trails Habitat Evaluation/Monitoring Lakes, ponds, streams, Nest structures, Cover Vegetation, Other Recreation e.g., boat access, ADA (sites)
- Weeds
- Statewide specialist
 - Forester, Range Ecologist, Restoration Ecologist, Archeologist, Water Rights
- Administration (HQ functions)



Investing Discover Pass \$

Before



After





Investing Discover Pass \$

Before

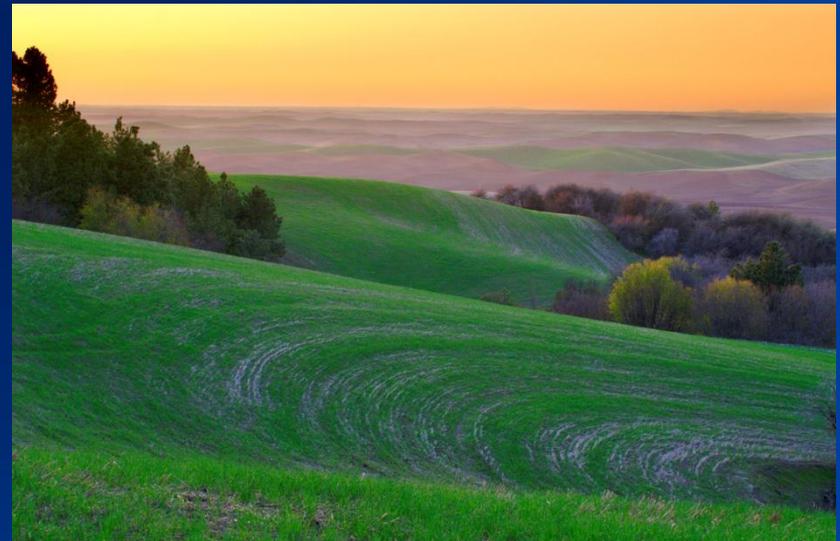


After



Working Lands Partnerships

- Lease/ permit with local farmers and ranchers
 - Food Plots, habitat maintenance, coordinated resource management, weed control
- Agricultural Leases
 - 60 leases
 - 17,887 acres
 - Revenue ~\$305k
- Grazing Permits
 - 39 permits
 - 58,231 acres
 - 8,652 Animal Unit Months (AUM)
 - Revenue ~\$44K



Working Lands Partnerships Swakane Food Plots



Sharecropping to enhance winter range

Working Lands Partnerships Sunnyside Wildlife Area



Sharecropping to enhance Sandhill Crane Populations

Grant Funding/ Partners

- Partners

 - Examples

 - Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups
 - Natural Resources Conservation Services
 - WHIP/ EQUIP

- Grants

 - Examples

 - WWRP
 - State Land Restoration
 - State Land Development
 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 - \$50K for additional weed control

WWRP- State Lands Restoration Grant Sinlahekin Forest Health

\$850,000

- **Thinning**
- **Prescribed burns**
- **Big Horn Sheep monitoring**
- **Ecological Integrity Assessment**



WWRP-State Lands Development Grant NEWMAN ACCESS

Walkway before



Ramp before



WWRP-State Lands Development Grant NEWMAN ACCESS

Walkway before/after



Ramp before/after



WWRP-State Lands Development Grant NEWMAN ACCESS



- \$250,000**
- Boat Ramp
 - Walkway
 - Kiosk
 - Restroom
 - Fishing Float

Habitat/ Species Focused Projects

- Prioritized enhancements on WLA
 - Funding
 - Internally (other programs/ divisions) - examples
 - Colockum Elk Herd Study - \$350k
 - Pheasant Release - \$250k
 - Sharp-tail and Sage Grouse reintroduction \$250k
 - Externally
 - Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) – South Puget Sound and Scatter Creek Prairie - ~\$400K/yr
 - North Olympic Salmon Coalition ~\$5k/yr

Habitat/ Species Focused Projects

ACUB - Prairie Restoration



~\$400,000/yr

- **Prairie Habitat Restoration**

- **Weed control**
- **Prescribed Burning**
- **Species reintroduction**

Capital Projects

- **2007-09- \$ 6,536,584**
 - E.g., \$1.2M of road improvements on 4 wildlife areas, \$180K Tucannon Riparian restoration, \$1.4M of fencing on three wildlife Areas
- **2009-11- \$ 6,921,610**
 - E.g. \$60K Colockum bridge and road repair, \$950K road improvements on four wildlife areas, \$408K toilet replacements on 7 access sites
- **2011-13- \$8,914,000**
 - E.g., \$536K Diamond Lake Boat ramp replacement, \$346K Chilliwist Irrigation system renovation, \$1.4 million Cherry Valley fish passage culverts, \$1.89 million Bebbe Springs trail development
- **“Jobs Now” Bill \$7.0+M!!!**

Capital Projects

Lake Terrell Fishing Pier



- \$450,000
- Fishing pier
 - ADA restroom
 - Grading
 - Parking



Capital Projects

West Fork Satsop River Boat Ramp



\$250,000

- New Launch
- Grading
- Parking
- ADA Restroom
- Habitat features



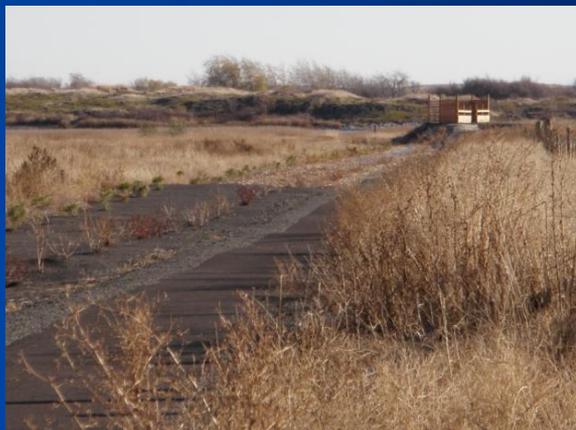
Capital Projects

Reardon/Audubon Viewing Blind



\$280,000

- ADA Trail
- ADA Restroom
- Two Parking Lots
- Two viewing blinds



Other Revenue

- Cooperative/compatible/entrepreneurial opportunities

Examples:

- Wildhorse Wind Farm
- Forest Health Management
- Cell Tower
- Gorge Amphitheatre
- Mission Ridge Ski Area



Other Revenue

Olympic Forest Health & Salvage



\$ 876,000 net revenue

- 3 million board feet removed/salvaged

- Habitat improvement - understory forage benefits for Elk

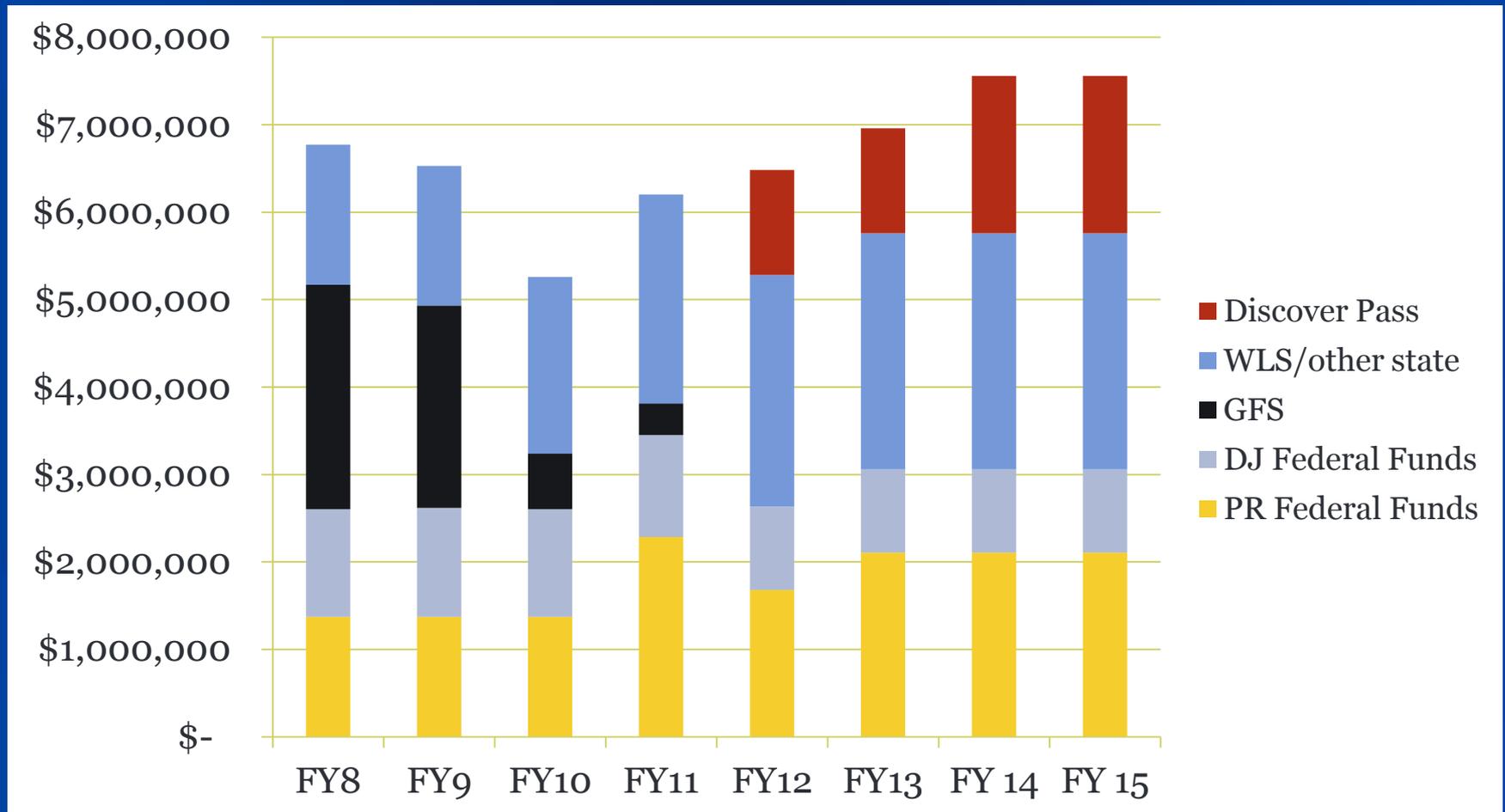
- Forest succession – marbled murrelet habitat

- Recreation – Access to big game

Lands O&M Budget Trends

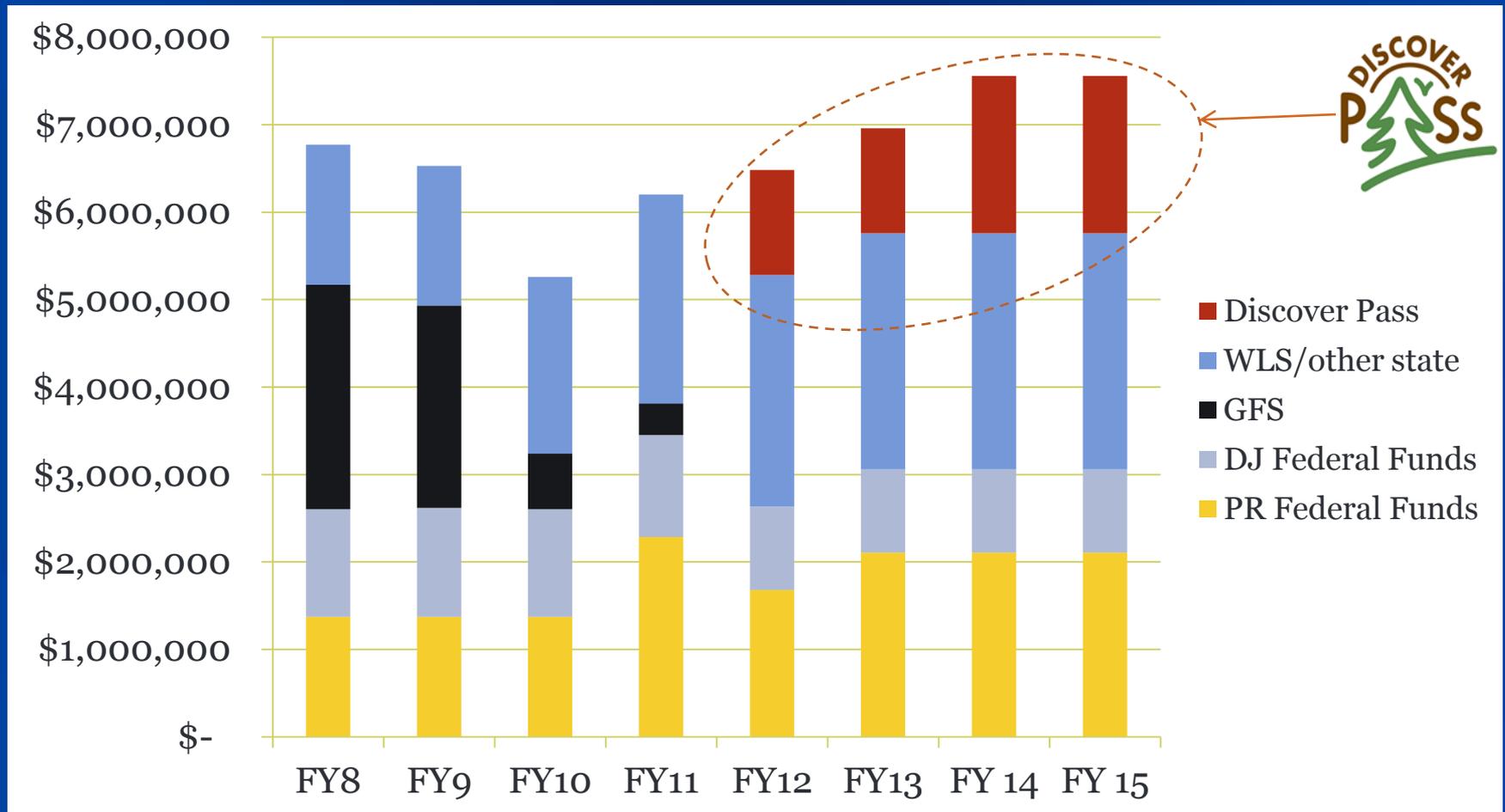
Lands Division O&M Budget

Major Fund Source Trends

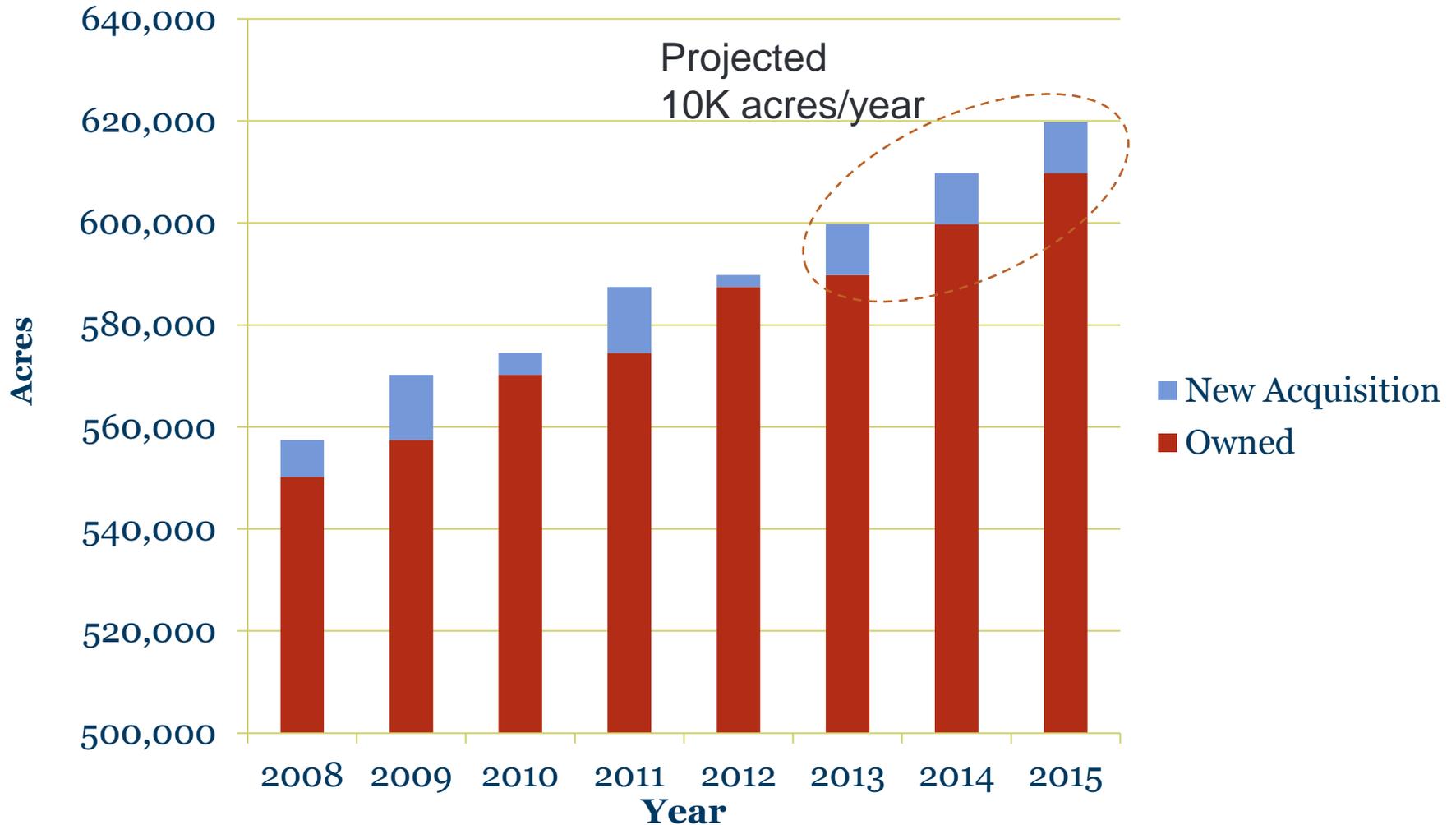


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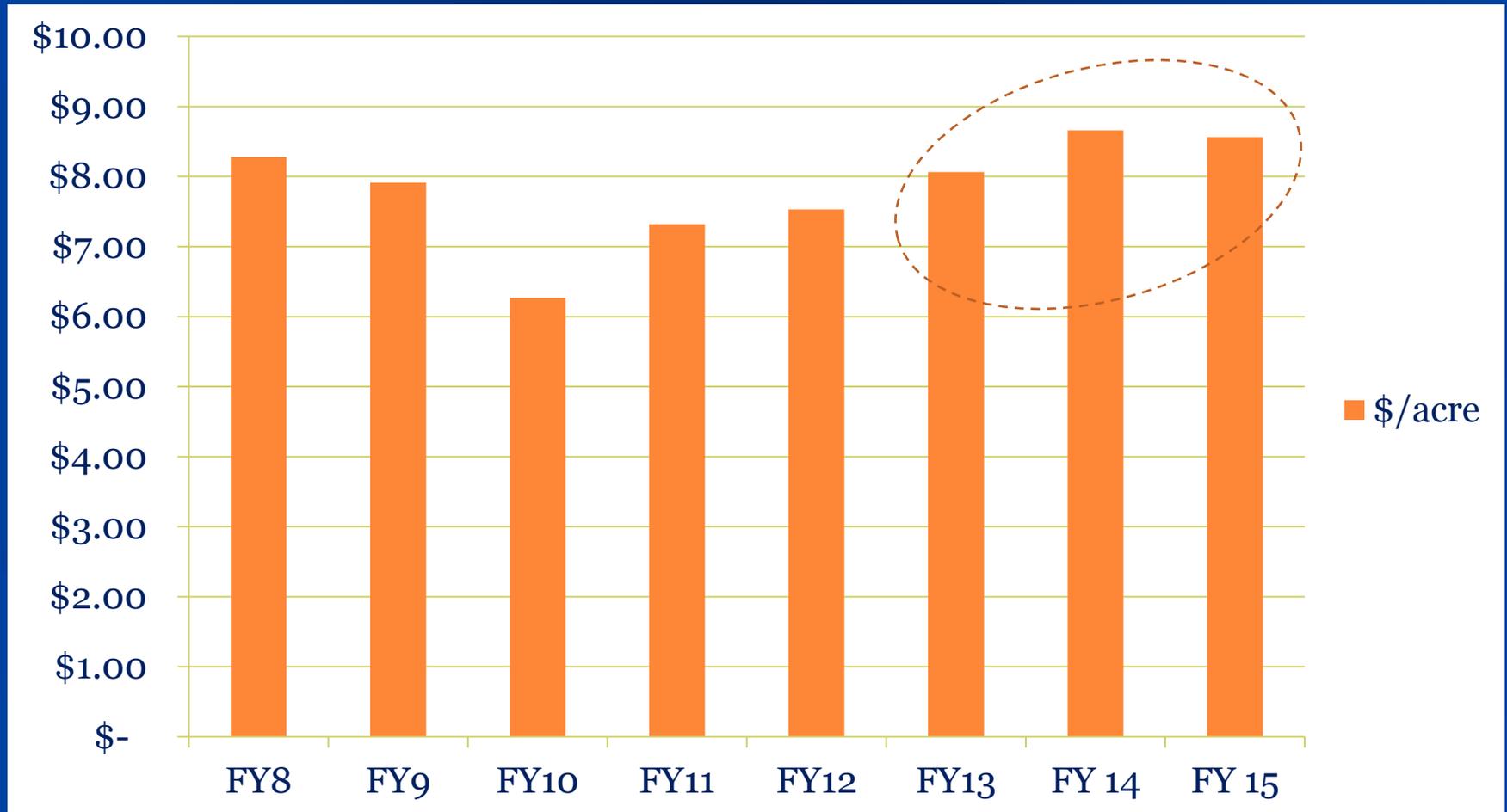


WDFW Lands Acquisition Trends



O&M Funding

“available dollars per acre”



Summary

- Acquisition
 - Essential conservation tool
 - Consistent with State and National Policies that direct protection and conservation of land for the public
 - WDFW has a strong and successful history with acquisition grants
 - Grant funding for land acquisition is trending down

Summary

- Operation and Maintenance
 - WDFW invests \$10M+/yr on its lands
 - The level of service that WDFW provides with this funding is exceptional
 - Operation and Capital funding trends are going up (Discover Pass)
 - Current acquisition rates are not expected to negatively impacts base funding for O&M through at least 2015

Next Steps

- Outreach Strategy
 - Improve messaging and exposure to bring awareness to WDFW's –
 - O&M Investments
 - Working land partnerships
 - Benefits to local economies
 - Habitat and species successes
 - Volunteer opportunities

Questions/Comments

